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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

VOL. 32

FEBRUARY 23, 1917

No. 8

INTERSTATE SANITARY DISTRICTS.

In the interest of cooperation with State health authorities as an aid to the enforcement of the interstate quarantine laws and regulations the Secretary of the Treasury, on February 12, 1917, revised the interstate sanitary districts so that they follow State boundaries. Under this revision the interstate sanitary districts are as follows:

District of the North Atlantic.—Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

District of the Mid-Atlantic.—New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

District of the Ohio.—Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

District of the South Atlantic.—South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

District of the Great Lakes.—Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, together with jurisdiction over vessels operating on all of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, and on the Mississippi River and its tributaries north of Cairo, Ill., and the Ohio River and its tributaries between Cairo, Ill., and Pittsburgh, Pa.

District of the Upper Missouri.—Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

District of the Missouri.—Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri.

District of the Gulf.—Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.

District of the Rocky Mountains.—Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado.

District of the Rio Grande.—Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

District of the North Pacific.—Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

District of the Pacific.—California and Nevada.

INTERSTATE QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

The following amendments to the Interstate Quarantine Regulations promulgated by the Treasury Department January 15, 1916, were made by the Secretary of the Treasury February 12, 1917, in accordance with the act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

Water for Drinking or Culinary Purposes Provided on Cars and Vessels by Interstate Carriers.

Section 13 was amended to read as follows:

SEC. 13. Water for drinking or culinary purposes provided on any car, vessel, vehicle, or other conveyance, by any person, firm, or corporation while engaged in interstate traffic, shall conform to the bacteriological standard for drinking water, as promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury on October 21, 1914, and shall not be from a supply that is exposed to contamination.

(a) The person, firm, or corporation before mentioned shall procure from the Interstate sanitary officer, or the State or other health authority within whose jurisdiction the water is obtained, a certificate showing that the water supply conforms to the foregoing requirements. The aforesaid certificates shall be executed semi-annually or as often as the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service may direct, and shall be filed with the United States Public Health Service.

(b) Ice used for cooling such water shall be clear natural ice, ice made from distilled water, or ice made from water certified as aforesaid, and before the ice is placed in the water it shall be first carefully washed with water of known safety, and handled in such manner as to prevent its becoming contaminated by the organisms of infectious or contagious diseases: *Provided*, That the foregoing shall not apply to ice which does not come in contact with the water which is to be cooled.

(c) Water containers shall be cleansed at least once in each week that they are in operation.

(d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to water provided for drinking or culinary purposes on vessels plying between foreign ports on or near the frontiers of the United States, and adjacent ports in the United States, in accordance with article 4, Foreign Quarantine Regulations of the United States, promulgated October 20, 1910, and amendments thereto.

Water for Drinking Purposes Provided at Stations by Interstate Carriers.

Section 14 was amended to read as follows:

SEC. 14. No person, firm, or corporation engaging in interstate traffic shall maintain or permit to be maintained at or near any station or other ordinary stopping place over which the aforesaid person, firm, or corporation has control, any tank, cistern, receptacle, hydrant, pump, well, stream, brook, pool, ditch, or other place or article containing water which may be contaminated by organisms likely to cause a contagious or infectious disease, and which water may conveniently be obtained by employees of the aforesaid person, firm, or corporation, or by the general public engaging in interstate traffic, unless approved signs, prohibiting the use of such water for drinking purposes, be properly placed and properly maintained.

Interstate Transportation of Persons Having Contagious or Infectious Diseases.

Section 18 was amended to read as follows:

SEC. 18. No person knowing that he is in the communicable stage of any of the diseases enumerated in section 1 shall travel on any car, vessel, vehicle, or other conveyance engaging in interstate traffic, except as hereinafter provided, nor shall any parent, guardian, physician, nurse, or other person, allow or procure such transportation for any minor, ward, patient, or other person under his charge.

Sanitation of Camps Occupied by Migratory Workers.

The following section was added:

SEC. 37. Persons, firms, or corporations maintaining camps of migratory workers shall at all times maintain such camps in a proper sanitary condition and shall take

proper measures to maintain the camps so occupied in a vermin-free condition and shall exercise such other precautions as shall prevent the interstate spread of disease from such camps, and the Surgeon General may from time to time detail officers or employees of the United States Public Health Service to make such inspections as shall be necessary for the enforcement of this regulation.

Prohibiting the Interstate Transportation of Oysters and Clams Grown or Handled under Insanitary Conditions.

The following section was added:

SEC. 38. After notification in writing by the proper health authorities, common carriers shall not transport nor accept for transportation in interstate traffic, nor shall any person, firm, or corporation offer for transportation in interstate traffic, any oysters, clams, or other shellfish which have been grown, fattened, or handled in such a way as to render them liable to become agents in the interstate spread of disease, and the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service shall from time to time cause sanitary inspections to be made by officers of the Public Health Service of beds used for growing or fattening oysters, clams, or other shellfish and of shucking houses and other similar places in which oysters, clams, or other shellfish are shucked or otherwise prepared for interstate shipment, and he may forbid the interstate shipment of any such oysters, clams, or other shellfish which are produced or handled in a manner which will render them liable to become agents for the interstate spread of disease.

ARIDITY OF INDOOR ATMOSPHERES IN WINTER.

In the January bulletin of the Kansas State Board of Health appears a short article entitled "Aridity of living rooms in cold weather," by S. D. Flora, observer of the United States Weather Bureau. The author emphasizes the more than desert dryness of the indoor air of artificially heated houses and buildings throughout the northern part of the United States during the winter. A series of measurements is given of the humidity of both the indoor and outdoor air at the Weather Bureau office in Topeka, Kans., during the winter of 1909-10. The observations were made three times a day—8 a. m., 12 m., and 4 p. m.—indoors and out, with the standard type of whirling psychrometer, over a period of 40 days of typical winter weather. The room in which the measurements were made was said to have been a steam-heated, well-ventilated office room, kept at an average temperature of about 72° F. For the period during which the observations were made the average indoor relative humidity was found to be 23 per cent. This is the same average as that obtained in Death Valley, Cal., during the summer of 1891. The outdoor humidity in Topeka at the same time averaged 82 per cent. The average relative humidity during the driest month of the year is stated to be for Yuma, Ariz., 35 per cent; for Santa Fe, N. Mex., 29 per cent; and for Pueblo, Colo., 38 per cent. The arid conditions in the residences of Topeka were not essentially different from those in